

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 BNDD-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-12 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8814

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 9003

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS

REF: STATE 38367

1. EMBASSY HAS FOLLOWING COMMENTS RE APPROACHING FRENCH TO REQUEST SUPPORT FOR BNDD OBSERVER AT NARCOTICS COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON " POMPIDOU INITIATIVE."

2. WE SEE MERIT IN COOPERATING CLOSELY WITH COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN " POMPIDOU INITIATIVE" TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND IDEAS WITH THEM. WE PROPOSE SOUNDING OUF GOF OFFICIALS ON BEST MEANS OF ACHIEVING THESE GOALS. HOWEVER, IN MAKING SUCH AN APPROACH, WE BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON WORKING OUT AD HOC BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXCHANGING INFORMATION WITH SELECTED COUNTRIES, BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER NARCOTICS COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

3. ASKING PERMISSION FOR AN AMERICAN " OBSERVER" TO ATTEND MEETINGS WOULD, IN OUR VIEW, NOT BE WELCOMED BY THE FRENCH (AND PERHAPS NOT BY OTHERS). OUR IMPRESSION OF BACKGROUND OF " POMPIDOU INITIATIVE" IS THAT IT WAS AN ATTEMPT TO CREATE A SOLELY EUROPEAN FORUM FOR COOPERATION ON NARCOTICS FOR THE DUAL PURPOSE OF COORDINATING ACTION OF DRUG SUPPRESSION IN EUROPE AND, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT IN FRENCH EYES, TO ESTABLISH FRENCH LEADERSHIP IN ANOTHER IMPORTANT AREA OF EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION. WE SUSPECT
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THEREFORE THAT ATTEMPT TO INTRODUCE USG DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN "EUROPEAN" PROCESS WOULD, AS A MINIMUM, BE REJECTED AND MIGHT EVEN HQVE UNDESIRABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR ALREADY EXCELLENT NARCOTICS COOPERATION WITH FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

4. IF DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH FOREGOING REASONING, WE PROPOSE EXPLORING THE QUESTION OF EXCHANGING INFORMATION AND IDEAS ON NARCOTICS WITH GOF OFFICIALS WHO FOLLOW WORK OF NARCOTICS COMMITTEES. WE COULD REFER TO BNDD SUGGESTION AT TRIPARTITE MEETING REFERRED TO IN REFTEL, IN CONTEXT OF SEEKING SOME ACCEPTABLE MECHANISM FOR GETTING SUCH EXCHANGES. WE WOULD DO THIS IN LOW- KEY MANNER, WITH A VIEW TO ACCEPTING ANY REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION WHICH FRENCH MIGHT PROPOSE. WE THINK THIS APPROACH IS THE MOST LIKELY TO INSURE THAT US VIEWS ARE SERIOUSLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER MEETINGS.

5. IF DEPARTMENT ACCEPTS THIS APPROACH, WOULD BE HELPFUL TO GET FROM BNDD HEADQUARTERS MORE SPECIFIC IDEA OF WHAT BNDD OBSERVER HOPED TO LEARN AND/ OR ACCOMPLISH BY SITTING IN ON COMMITTEE MEETINGS. THIS WOULD ALLOW US TO PURSUE MORE EFFECTIVELY, IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH GOF OFFICIALS, ALTERNATE MEANS OF ACCOMPLISHING SAME OBJECTIVES.

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